



County of Los Angeles  
**CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE**

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DAVID E. JANSSEN  
Chief Administrative Officer

September 12, 2005

To: Supervisor Gloria Molina, Chair  
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke  
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky  
Supervisor Don Knabe  
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: David E. Janssen  
Chief Administrative Officer

Board of Supervisors  
GLORIA MOLINA  
First District

YVONNE B. BURKE  
Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY  
Third District

DON KNABE  
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH  
Fifth District

**WASHINGTON, D.C. UPDATE**

**Hurricane Katrina Disaster Relief**

Last week, Congress focused on Hurricane Katrina disaster relief, passing H.R. 3673, a \$51.8 billion disaster relief supplemental appropriations bill (P.L. 109-62), which was signed into law on September 8, 2005. Previously, Congress enacted a \$10.5 billion supplemental appropriations bill. On September 8, 2005, the Senate passed H.R. 804, a bill which would exclude the counting of Federal flood mitigation payments as income or resources when determining eligibility for Federal means-tested benefits, such as Medicaid and Food Stamps.

Of County interest, on September 8, 2005, the House passed H.R. 3672, the "TANF Emergency Response and Recovery Act of 2005," which includes provisions to:

- Extend the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program through December 31, 2005. TANF, otherwise, would expire on September 30, 2005;
- Allow a state to use the \$2 billion TANF Contingency Fund through August 31, 2006 to provide short-term cash benefits to families who relocated from another state which has a Hurricane Katrina disaster area. There would not be any state match required for such benefits; and
- Exempt Hurricane Katrina victims from TANF work requirements and time limits through the end of Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2006.

Additional Hurricane Katrina disaster relief, including legislation relating to the provision of Medicaid and other health and human services to disaster victims, will be considered in the coming weeks. Similar to H.R. 3672, these bills also may provide funding for services to hurricane victims in any state where they relocate.

### **Budget Reconciliation Legislation**

Last week, Republican leaders in both chambers agreed to postpone action on budget reconciliation legislation for at least a month. On September 12, 2005, Senate Majority Leader Frist (R-TN) and Senate Budget Committee Chairman Gregg (R-NH) released a statement indicating that they were extending the deadline for the Senate Budget Committee to report budget reconciliation legislation until October 26, 2005. Under the FFY 2006 budget resolution, which was passed in April, September 16, 2005 was the deadline for reporting legislation to reduce mandatory (entitlement) spending, a combined total of \$35 billion over five years. Democratic leaders and some moderate Republicans have suggested that the Congress should not proceed with such spending cuts and should focus tax relief on hurricane victims and the rebuilding process.

### **FFY 2006 Appropriations**

This week, the Senate will resume floor action on the FFY 2006 Commerce-Justice-State Appropriations bill (H.R. 2862). It is unclear how much progress will be made due to the large number of pending amendments to address victims of Hurricane Katrina. If progress on this bill stalls, Majority Leader Frist indicated that the Senate might turn to the FFY 2006 Transportation-Treasury-Housing Appropriations bill (H.R. 3058).

Progress on FFY 2006 appropriations bills in conference committee is at a standstill. Conference negotiations on the FFY 2006 Homeland Security Appropriations bill (H.R. 2360) may resume this week, but the focus may turn to issues relating to the Federal Emergency Management Agency whose operations are funded in the bill. Last week, no conference negotiations on the Energy and Water Appropriations bill (H.R. 2419) took place. When these negotiations resume, one of the biggest issues will be whether funding for the Army Corps of Engineers should be increased in the aftermath of the failure of levees to protect New Orleans from flooding.

We will continue to keep you advised.

DEJ:GK  
MAL:MT:ib

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors  
County Counsel  
All Department Heads  
Legislative Strategist